grant of recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House

(vi) Small exporters with an average export turn-over Rs. 2 crores in the proceeding three years or with a turn-over of Rs. 5 crores in preceeding year have been made eligible for grant of Special Import Licence to give a special boost to exports of products manufactured in SSI sector. Special Import Licence entitlement to status holders has been increased by 1% across the board to all categories and the number of items on the Special Import Licence list has also been increased.

(vii) India Brand Equity Fund has been launched to build up a brand image for Indian export products abroad.

(viii) With a view to involve States/Union Territories in promotion of exports, one State Corporation in each State/Union Territory has been accorded Export House status irrespective of past export performance.

(ix) Better and continuing Inter-ministerial coordination and interface with Trade and Industry to further streamline and simplify procedures relating to Foreign Trade transactions

Silk Industry

*438. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States selected under the National Sericulture Project and the details of work being undertaken under the Project;

(b) the financial assistance received so far from the World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation for the Project; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) A World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project is being implemented in 5 traditional sericulture States namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir and on a pilot basis in 12 non-traditional States namely Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

Under the project, the components financed are development oriented with several innovative and synergic constituents. Besides creation of substantial infrastructural facilities by the States and CSB for the discharge of functions like the supply of quality basic and rearer seed, markets for decentralised private rearers and reelers, research and development and training facilities for on-farm and off-farm activities the project has also attempted the incorporation of efforts by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by assisting 125 NGOs. The progress in quantitative as well as qualitative terms has been significant and on the technology generation and absorption side, progress has ranged from the evaluation of techniques for genetic marketing of live sericulture material to the introduction of low cost energy conserving ovens in reelers' establishments in the country.

(b) The World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation have disbursed US$ 120.5 million up to November, 1996 under the project.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 is closing on 31st December, 1996.

Investment in Coal Sector

*439 DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital investment made in coal sector as on March, 1996 and at the time of nationalisation of the Coal Industry;

(b) the investment made in the sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the Government propose to invest more funds in coal sector in view of the increasing demand of coal in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). As per the New Economic Policy of the Government of India stipulating self-sufficiency in public sector undertakings, the budgetary support to Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been reduced during the Eighth Plan period. However, capital investment in CIL and SCCL will increase during the Ninth Plan period by progressive increase in internally generated resources of these companies and their commercial borrowings. In order to enhance the borrowing capacity of SCCL and CIL, certain capital restructuring steps have been taken by the Government of India in 1994 and 1996 respectively. In June, 1993 the Government have amended the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to enable captive coal mining by the private sector and this step will improve the investment in the coal sector. Besides, the partial deregulation of coal prices introduced in 1996 have also improved financial health of these companies.

STATEMENT

The requisite information is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Company	Total capital investment made in Coal India Limited (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) as on 31.3.1996.	Total capital investment approved for CIL and SCCL during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.
CIL	19400.47	8747.58
SCCL	3257.95	2300.47
Total	22658.42	11048.47

The total capital investment made in the coal sector at the time of nationalisation of the coal industry was Rs. 282.82 crores as on 31.3.1973. This includes Rs. 30.77 crores of capital investment made in Singareni Collieries Company Limited. The remaining amount of Rs. 252.05 crores was the total amount of compensation paid by the Government of India to the private owners of the coal mines which were taken over at the time of nationalisation when Bharat Coking Coal Limited and National Coal Development Corporation were in existence. CIL was set up in September, 1975.

Rate of Interest Offered by Financial Companies

*440. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain advertisements issued by Private Financial Institutions in Madras and Delhi offering 30% and 24% interest on fixed deposit schemes floated by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rate of interest offered by such companies has been approved by any Government agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed to be taken to save small investors from such exploiting offers of interests; and

(e) whether the Government propose to keep people informed through media as and when such exploiting deposits schemes are advertised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India have reported that some cases relate to unincorporated bodies and, as such, fall outside the purview of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s regulations relating to the rate of interest on deposits and the amount of deposits that may be received. Under the provisions of Chapter IIIC of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 such unincorporated bodies are prohibited from accepting deposits from the number of depositors, more than that specified under Section 45S of the RBI Act. In respect of incorporated bodies (NBFCs), as per RBI directions, registered NBFCs not complying with the credit rating and prudential norm requirements and other NBFCs not registered with RBI are not authorised to accept deposits (a) at a rate exceeding 15 per cent per annum, (b) for a maturity period of less than 12 months and more than five years. RBI has reported that one company M/s. Hoffland Finance Ltd had issued advertisement for investments in the news papers. On inquiry, the company has clarified on 26.11.1996 that it is not taking deposits out is arranging and mobilising funds for other corporates and firms and thereby earning brokerage.

(c) RBI issued advertisements and press communique in November, 1995 in respect of unidentified unincorporated bodies located in Chennai (Madras) cautioning members of the public that they should verify the credentials before depositing money with any such unincorporated body and satisfy themselves that deposits are being accepted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IIIC of the RBI Act. Members of the public were also cautioned in the advertisements that if any such body falls to repay the deposit, they can have recourse only against such bodies under the existing provisions of law. The Government of Tamil Nadu was also requested to initiate immediate action against defaulting companies.

Central Dues Towards Assam

4212. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from the State Government of Assam requesting for a moratorium on deduction of dues to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised in the memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Chief Minister Assam submitted a memorandum in July, 1996 to Prime Minister on various problems being faced by the State Government of Assam. Among other things, the Chief Minister, Assam also requested for the grant of moratorium in favour of the State Government for three years commencing from the financial year 1996-97 on the repayment of the Central loans involving principal and interest dues